Strategy for exports

66. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have been formulating a strategy for exports to achieve the targets of foreign trade;

-(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) In the current year (1995-96), the export target has been indicated at a 20% growth in $ terms. However, export promotion as a continuous process. Steps are taken to boost exports in consultation with trade, industry and other concerned institutions. The Government is striving to make the environment of policy and procedures more export-friendly. Among the measures taken for export promotion mention may be made about simplification of Export-Import Policy and Procedures increasing export production, improving efficiency and competitiveness, focussing on quality improvement and technological upgradation, improvement in infrastructure and actively involving State Governments in export promotion. In the current year an Annual Action Plan has been formulated which, *inter-alia,* covers commodity-specific and country-specific measures for export promotion. Imports are made as per requirements. As such, no targets are set..

(c) Does not arise.

Foodgrain Requirement

67. SHRI JANARDAN YADAV: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) what is Government's assessment about the requirement and production of foodgrains this year in the country in view of the increasing population;

(b) what will be the requirement of the foodgrains in the country by 2000 A.D. and in what manner Government propose to meet the shortage of foodgrains in view of the production capacity of the country; and

(c) whether Government will import foodgrains or would make the cultivable land more fertile so that the production capacity could be increased?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) to (c) The demand/ requirement of foodgrains at a given point of time depends upon a number of variable factors such as population characteristics, production, availability, income distribution, price behaviour, consumer habits availability of substitutes and other related matters. Hence it is difficult to indicate the exact assessment of the requirement of foodgrains in the country.

However, the demand for foodgrains by the year 2000. A.D. is likely to increase at the rate of 2.5—2.7 per cent per annum depending upon the rate of increase in population and per capita income. Taking into consideration the present level of requirements and likely increase in demand, the domestic requirement of total foodgrains by the year 2000 A.D. is likely to be in the range of 205 to 208 million tonnes. In order to meet the increase in demand of foodgrains in future, Government is implementing various Crop production Oriented Programmes to increase production and productivity of foodgrains in the country. All cereals based crop production schemes have been recently modified to make it cropping system based approach to increase the productivity of all crops.

Imports and Exports during 1994-95 and 1995-96

68. SHRI ASHOK MITRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the value of imports, in rupees as well as in dollars, during the first six months of 1994-95 and 1995-96 respectively;